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PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 50th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 25 July 1996, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. GERVAIS (Côte d'Ivoire)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS (continued)

Elections, nominations and confirmations

Programme Coordination Board of the Joint and Co-sponsored Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (E/1996/91)

The PRESIDENT informed the Council that it had been agreed that all future elections for the Programme Coordination Board would be conducted by the Council. He drew attention to the information contained in document E/1996/91 and invited the Council to elect five members of the Board for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1997. Côte d'Ivoire was a candidate for the seat to be filled by the Group of African States; Mexico was an endorsed candidate for the seat to be filled by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; Canada and Norway were candidates for the two seats to be filled by the Group of Western European and Other States.

Mr. PHANIT (Thailand) said that Thailand wished to be a candidate for the seat to be filled by the Group of Asian States.

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to elect the candidates by acclamation.

It was so decided.

Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Mexico, Norway and Thailand were elected members of the Programme Coordination Board of the Joint and Co-sponsored Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS).

Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (E/1996/79 and Add.1 and 2)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to appoint three members of the Board for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 30 June 1999. Information regarding the candidates was contained in document E/1996/79 and Add.1 and 2. In order to maintain the existing geographical balance, the vacancies were to be filled by the appointment of one member from each of three regional groups: the Group of African States, the Group of Asian States and the Group of Western European and Other States.

Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan) said that Pakistan had decided to withdraw its candidate for election to the Board of Trustees.

The PRESIDENT said that since there was one candidate for the vacancy for the Group of Western European and Other States, he took it that the Council wished to appoint her by acclamation.

It was so decided.

Maria Jonas (Austria) was appointed a member of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot one member from the Group of African States and one member from the Group of Asian States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Gubarevich (Belarus) and Mr. Felton (United Kingdom) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Number of valid ballots:	54
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Group of African States	
Noëlie Kangoye (Burkina Faso):	34
Elizabeth Chiedza Gwaunza (Zimbabwe):	18
Indira Savitree Thacoor-Sidaya (Mauritius):	2
Group of Asian States	
Mona Chemali Khalaf (Lebanon):	29
Prabha Basnet (Nepal):	19
Hiam Omar Kalimat Tuquz (Jordan):	5
Tahera Aftab (Pakistan):	1
Muna Younis Bahri Salih (Iraq):	none

Having obtained the required majority, Noëlie Kangoye (Burkina Faso) and Mona Chemali Khalaf (Lebanon) were elected members of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.

Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The PRESIDENT recalled that in its resolution 50/228 the General Assembly had decided to enlarge the membership of the Executive Committee of the

Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from 50 to 51. He invited the Council to elect one State to fill the new seat, for which the candidature of Ireland had been proposed. He took it that the Council wished to elect Ireland by acclamation.

It was so decided.

Ireland was elected a member of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Committee for Programme and Coordination

The PRESIDENT said, with regard to the two remaining members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination to be nominated from the Group of Western European and Other States for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1997, that the Secretariat had received the candidature of Austria, which had been endorsed by that Group. He took it that the Council wished to nominate Austria by acclamation.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to submit the proposed nomination for election by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session.

It was so decided.

Commission on Human Settlements

The PRESIDENT said, with regard to elections to the Commission on Human Settlements postponed from May 1996, that one member was to be elected from the Group of Asian States, one member from the Group of Eastern European States and two members from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1997. With regard to elections to the Commission postponed from previous sessions, one member was to be elected from the Group of African States and one member from the Group of Asian States, for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1999.

Since the Secretariat had received no candidatures to fill the vacant posts, he took it that the Council wished to further postpone the elections to the Commission on Human Settlements.

It was so decided.

Commission on Population and Development

The PRESIDENT said, with regard to elections to the Commission on Population and Development postponed from May 1996, that two members were to be

elected from the Group of Asian States and two members from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1997. Malaysia was an endorsed candidate from the Group of Asian States and Panama was an endorsed candidate from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Since the number of candidates proposed from the Group of Asian States and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States was equal to or less than the number of vacancies, he took it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation and to postpone until a later stage the election of one member from the Group of Asian States and one member from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

It was so decided.

Malaysia and Panama were elected members of the Commission on Population and Development.

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The PRESIDENT said, with regard to elections to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice postponed from May 1996, that three members were to be elected from the Group of African States for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1997. Egypt, the Gambia and Malawi had been endorsed by the Group of African States. Since the number of candidates was equal to the number of vacancies, he took it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation.

It was so decided.

Egypt, the Gambia and Malawi were elected members of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Executive Board of the World Food Programme

The PRESIDENT said, with regard to elections to the Executive Board of the World Food Programme postponed from May 1996, that two members were to be elected from the Group of African States for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1997. Angola and Ethiopia had been endorsed by the Group of African States. Since the number of candidates was equal to the number of vacancies, he took it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation.

It was so decided.

Angola and Ethiopia were elected members of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme.

Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

The PRESIDENT said, with regard to elections to the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting postponed from May 1996, that one member was to be elected from the Group of African States, two members from the Group of Asian States and two members from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1997. With regard to elections postponed from previous sessions, one member was to be elected from the Group of African States and two members from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1997; and one member from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States was to be elected for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1996.

Panama had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1997. Since the number of candidates was less than the number of vacancies, he took it that the Council wished to elect Panama by acclamation.

It was so decided.

Panama was elected a member of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting.

The PRESIDENT said that he took it that the Council wished to postpone to a later stage the election of one member from the Group of African States, two members from the Group of Asian States and one member from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and wished to further postpone the election of one member from the Group of African States and three members from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

It was so decided.

Committee on Natural Resources (E/1996/L.13/Add.2)

The PRESIDENT said, with regard to elections to the Committee on Natural Resources postponed from May 1996, that four experts were to be elected from the Group of Asian States, three experts from the Group of Eastern European States, four experts from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and three experts from the Group of Western European and Other States for a term beginning on 1 January 1997. Information regarding the elections was contained in document E/1996/L.13/Add.2. Mohammad Nawaz Khan (Pakistan) and Adel Jalili

(Islamic Republic of Iran) had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States. Since the number of candidates was less than the number of vacancies, he took it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation.

It was so decided.

Adel Jalili (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Mohammad Nawaz Khan (Pakistan) were elected members of the Committee on Natural Resources.

The PRESIDENT said that Gustavo Alvarez (Uruguay), Carlos A. Saldívar (Paraguay) and Carmen Luisa Velásquez de Visbal (Venezuela) had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. Since the number of candidates was less than the number of vacancies, he took it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation.

It was so decided.

Gustavo Alvarez (Uruguay), Carlos A. Saldívar (Paraguay) and Carmen Luisa Velásquez de Visbal (Venezuela) were elected members of the Committee on Natural Resources.

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to further postpone the election of two experts from the Group of Asian States, three experts from the Group of Eastern European States, one expert from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and three experts from the Group of Western European and Other States.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said that, since the Council had not received a full slate of candidates, the drawing of lots to determine the terms of office of the members would be postponed to a future session.

Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development (E/1996/L.15/Add.1)

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the list of candidates in document E/1996/L.15/Add.1. Since the number of candidates endorsed by the Group of Asian States, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Group of Western European and Other States, respectively, was less than the number of vacancies for each Group, he took it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation.

It was so decided.

Bernard Devin (France), Choon-Ho Kim (Republic of Korea), Ahmad Kahrobaian (Islamic Republic of Iran), Daniel F. Pérez Fernández-Ravetti (Paraguay),

Eduardo Praselj (Venezuela) and E. V. R. Sastry (India) were elected members of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development.

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to postpone to a later stage the election of six experts from the Group of African States, one expert from the Group of Asian States, three experts from the Group of Eastern European States, two experts from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and two experts from the Group of Western European and Other States.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said that, since the Council had not received a full slate of candidates, the drawing of lots to determine the terms of office of the members would be postponed to a future session.

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

The PRESIDENT said he took it that, in the absence of candidates from the Group of Western European and Other States to fill the two remaining vacant seats on the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Council wished to further postpone the election to a future meeting.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT drew attention to document E/1996/3/Add.1, containing the names of the representatives of members of the functional commissions which had been submitted for confirmation by the Council since the close of the organizational session for 1996. The Secretariat had also received a confirmation that the Government of South Africa would be represented by Shaheed Rajie on the Commission for Social Development and that the Government of Germany would be represented by Charlotte Höhn on the Commission on Population and Development.

He took it that the Council wished to confirm the nominations in document E/1996/3/Add.1 and those he had read out.

It was so decided.

SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS (continued)

(c) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (continued) (E/1996/L.42)

Mr. DELANEY (Observer for Papua New Guinea), introducing draft resolution E/1996/L.42, on behalf of the sponsors, said that the text was procedural and contained language that was consistent with previous procedural resolutions adopted by the Council.

The PRESIDENT announced that Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Republic of Tanzania had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

(a) SPECIAL ECONOMIC, HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued) (E/1996/L.28 and L.33)

The PRESIDENT announced that Brazil, China, Cuba, Papua New Guinea, the Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic had become sponsors of draft resolution E/1996/L.28, entitled "Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon".

Mr. HAMDAN (Lebanon) said that following informal consultations the text of the draft resolution had been revised. The word "increasing" in the second line of paragraph 1 should be replaced by the words "considering increase of all forms of support including" and the words "assistance in the form of" should be deleted. In the fifth line of that paragraph, the words "favourably and fully participate" should be replaced by the words "playing a full part" and the words "currently being formed" should be deleted. The phrase "planned to be established" should be added at the end of paragraph 10.

The sponsors hoped that those revisions would make it possible to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

Draft resolution E/1996/L.28, as orally revised, was adopted.

Mr. GERUS (Belarus) said that his delegation wished to become a sponsor of draft resolution E/1996/L.33, entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations".

Draft resolution E/1996/L.33 was adopted.

(d) HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (continued) (E/1996/L.38)

Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that some delegations had had difficulties with the text of draft resolution E/1996/L.38, entitled "Follow-up to the International Covenant

on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights". In order to accommodate those concerns, a revised version would be issued the following day.

Ms. TAMLYN (United States of America) said that the Secretariat should scrutinize the draft resolution carefully so as to be able to apprise delegations of any programme budget implications resulting from the request for a report.

(e) ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (continued) (E/1996/L.36 and L.37)

Mr. CARRANZA (Observer for Guatemala) said that Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mongolia, Tunisia and the United Republic of Tanzania had become sponsors of draft resolution E/1996/L.36, entitled "International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women".

Following negotiations, some changes had been made in the text with a view to arriving at a consensus. In paragraph 1, the words "with satisfaction" should be deleted. After paragraph 2, the following new paragraph should be inserted: "Takes note of the analysis done by the Board of Trustees and its recommendation that the Institute should also report in joint session of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly under relevant agenda items, in order to improve the coordination and synergy of its programmes with other economic and social issues". Paragraph 5 should be deleted.

Mr. BIGGAR (Ireland), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Union, said that the Union would join in the adoption of the draft resolution. Concerning paragraph 1, he recalled that the Union had called for reports that were more analytical and more specific in describing the Institute's activities. In connection with paragraph 2, he reiterated the Union's view that the Institute should focus on and establish its priorities in those areas that were essential to its mandate, and that, in relation to other areas, it should draw on relevant work already being carried out elsewhere.

Ms. STARR NEWELL (Secretary of the Council), referring to the new paragraph to be inserted after paragraph 2, suggested that the sponsors should clarify whether they were requesting a joint session of the Second and Third Committees.

Mr. CARRANZA (Observer for Guatemala) said that, since some delegations were having problems with the language used in the new paragraph, action on the draft resolution would have to be postponed.

The PRESIDENT drew attention to draft resolution E/1996/L.37, entitled "System-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001" and said that Belgium had added its name to the list of sponsors.

Mrs. BRENNEN-HAYLOCK (Observer for the Bahamas) said that Iceland, Italy and Japan wished to join in sponsoring the draft resolution. She noted that Romania should be listed in the document as a member of the Council and not as an observer.

Mr. ARDA (Observer for Turkey) said that Turkey also wished to become a sponsor.

Draft resolution E/1996/L.37 was adopted.

PROGRAMME AND RELATED QUESTIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS (continued) (E/1996/L.31)

Ms. TAMLYN (United States of America) asked the Council Secretary to clarify the programme budget implications of draft decision E/1996/L.31, entitled "Dates of sessions of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies in 1997".

Ms. STARR NEWELL (Secretary of the Council) confirmed that the draft decision had no programme budget implications.

Draft decision E/1996/L.31 was adopted.

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS (continued)

(d) NATURAL RESOURCES (continued) (E/1996/31; E/1996/L.29 and L.32)

Mr. KOVANDA (Czech Republic), Vice-President, introduced draft resolution E/1996/L.32, entitled "Integration of key minerals issues into the implementation of Agenda 21", and said that the text was based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution I in document E/1996/31.

Draft resolution E/1996/L.32 was adopted.

Mr. KOVANDA (Czech Republic), Vice-President, introduced draft resolution E/1996/L.29, entitled "Integrated water resources development and management", and said that the text was based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution II in document E/1996/31.

Draft resolution E/1996/L.29 was adopted.

Mr. KOVANDA (Czech Republic), Vice-President, drew attention to draft decisions I and II in chapter I.B of the report of the Committee on Natural Resources (E/1996/31). He read out the following text for insertion in both

draft decisions: "subject to any changes that may be required, taking into account the review of the role and working methods of the Committee and its relationship with other bodies in the context of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227". The new wording was to be added after the word "below" in paragraph (b) of draft decision I and after "1998" at the end of the first paragraph of draft decision II.

Draft decisions I and II, as orally revised, were adopted.

COORDINATION QUESTIONS (continued)

(b) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATICS (continued) (E/1996/L.27)

Mr. KOVANDA (Czech Republic), Vice-President, said that Belarus and Oman wished to become sponsors of draft resolution E/1996/L.27, entitled "The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States". Introducing the draft resolution, which was the result of informal consultations, he announced the following three textual changes: the words "furthering the objectives of the United Nations, including" were to be added after the words "technologies for" in the first preambular paragraph; the words "with due regard for all official languages," were to be added at the end of the second preambular paragraph; and the words "so that it may continue its useful work" were to be deleted from paragraph 6 of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution E/1996/L.27, as orally revised, was adopted.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.